

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 03061 111444Z

44

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SYE-00 SSO-00 L-03 /015 W

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O 111401Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8487

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 3061

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJ: MARINE SECURITY GUARD - PROTECTIVE SECURITY TEAM ASMARA

REF STATE 56386

1. REFTEL SEEMS TO INDICATE DEPARTMENTAL BELIEF THAT SOMEHOW EPMG HAS IN FACT ALREADY ACCEPTED PRINCIPLE OF IMMUNITY FOR PROTECTIVE SECURITY TEAM OF MARINES IN ASMARA SUBJECT TO MINOR DETAILS WHICH WE HAVE SUBMITTED TO EPMG PER STATE 36977 AND STATE 8703. WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT THIS NOT REPEAT NOT THE CASE. WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED REPLY FROM MOFA. UNTIL WE DO, THE MATTER IS STILL AN OPEN QUESTION.

2. IN PRACTICE THIS MEANS THAT IF DEPT SENDS TWO SPECIALLY TRAINED MARINES TO ASMARA, THEY WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE ABLE TO PERFORM SPECIAL FUNCTIONS FOR WHICH THEY TRAINED. THEY WOULD SIMPLY JOIN OTHER MEMBERS OF DETACHMENT AS WATCHSTANDERS. IF DEPT HAS IN MIND THAT TEAM WOULD PERFORM PROTECTIVE FUNCTIONS ANYWAY, WE CANNOT AGREE. EPMG IS FULLY AWARE OF OUR REQUEST AND WOULD SPOT MARINES IN THIS ROLE IMMEDIATELY. REACTION WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY FOLLOW, PROBABLY DETRIMENTAL TO OUR INTERESTS, AND WE CANNOT AFFORD TO JEOPARDIZE, EVEN IN THE SMALL DEGREE, SECURITY WE HAVE BEEN ABLE MAINTAIN IN ASMARA.

3. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION IF DEPT WISHES SEND TEAM TO
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 03061 111444Z

ASMARA NOW, BUT IT MUST BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT UNTIL

WE GET GREEN LIGHT FROM EPMG, THEY WILL NOT ACT AS BODY-
GUARDS TO COVER PO'S MOVEMENTS OUTSIDE CONGEN COMPOUND
UNLESS DEPT IS PREPARED TO DROP OR MODIFY ITS INSISTENCE
ON IMMUNITY.
HUMMEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ADDIS03061
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760092-0690
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760373/aaaacmeg.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 56386
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARINE SECURITY GUARD - PROTECTIVE SECURITY TEAM ASMARA
TAGS: ASEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006